

**Minutes**  
**King County Rural Forest Commission**  
**November 15, 2001**  
**Mercerview Community Center**

*Commissioners present:* Jean Bouffard, Gordon Bradley, Louis Kahn, Bill Kombol, Ken Konigsmark, Fred McCarty, Doug McClelland, Andrew Schwarz, Dave Warren

*Commissioners absent:* Rudy Edwards, Steve Ketz, Matt Mattson

*Exofficio members:* Steve Boyce, Lori Grant

*Staff:* Kathy Creahan, Kristi McClelland, Benj Wadsworth

*Guests:* Lee Kahn

Doug McClelland called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

**Minutes Approval**

Motion 1-1101 “To adopt the September 19, 2001 and October 17, 2001 minutes as written. Moved, seconded and approved.

**Chair Report**

Doug McClelland stressed the need for the Commission to discuss priorities for 2002.

**Staff Report**

The budget is before Council and should be adopted on Monday. It seems that the forestry program will survive without any cuts. The proposed Water and Land Resources Division Strategic Plan is also before Council. The Forestry program is currently part of the “Stewardship Services” core business, but several Councilmembers have expressed concern that the Office of Rural and Resource Lands should be its own core business. The Forestry Program is actually growing with the addition of an urban forestry program that is funded through state DNR. Staff is working on making the connection between urban and rural forest landscapes.

Daryl Grigsby, the new WLRD Division Manager, will begin next week. Staff thinks it would be a good idea to have him meet the Commission.

Benj suggested the need to hold a “King County Forest Workshop” to bring together all of the different agencies and organizations working on forestland conservation. He feels that there is a need to improve communication about various efforts and that such an event would help raise awareness about the issue. All agreed that it would be a good idea. Ken Konigsmark feels it would be important for County Council members to attend.

Benj gave the Forest Outreach Network slideshow to the Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council last week. The presentation was well received by most, but some members were concerned about future regulations affecting landowners. Doug suggested the need to know the audience when giving the FON slideshow and possibly have some Commissioners attend as well so that the message is not viewed as being delivered by just the County.

Kathy briefed Executive Sims on the Forest Policy. He intends to issue an Executive Order to implement it.

Dave Warren gave a summary of the Forestry Coop workshop held on Vashon Island. Jim Birkheimer, a forester from Washington Island, Wisconsin who has started a coop there, led the workshop. He emphasized the need for value added manufacturing. His coop has been very successful in milling and selling flooring. Discussion ensued about the possibility of marketing locally grown wood that comes from the Coop. The Build Green program and the Environmental Home Center have expressed interest in working with the Coop to help market their product. Bill Kombol commented that value added manufacturing is dependent on the time value of labor. It may be worth while for some landowners and not for others, but it will not increase the value of the raw timber.

### **King County Forestry Program update**

Kathy Creahan gave the presentation that she gave to the Natural Resources, Open Space and Parks Committee of Council in August when the new Commission members were confirmed. She summarized the goals and efforts of the program and gave an update on forestland in which the County has an ownership interest. Slides from her presentation are attached (paper copy only).

### **2002 Work Plan**

Ken Konigsmark suggested the need to present to Council before the 2002 Budget process a list of specific recommendations about what needs to be done. The Commission should also help promote and implement the Forest Policy. The new Council members (and some of the

old members who have not been involved in forestland issues) need to be briefed on the issues. There is roughly \$1 million dollars from harvest receipts in the Biosolids Forest Trust account. This money should be reinvested in additional forestland acquisitions, and it seems like the County is headed in that direction. Hopefully, this will open the door for allocating other funds generated from forestland to additional forestland acquisitions.

Doug McClelland reiterated the need for a “Forest Workshop.” He also suggested having a reunion of graduates from the forest stewardship classes to renew interest and generate discussion about next steps such as carrying out plans, cooperative efforts, etc.

Doug suggested having a social gathering at the Kahn’s residence. The gathering could include a meeting, a tour of the property, and lunch. Doug suggested that it might be a good time to invite other County staff to discuss some of the issues before the Commission.

Louis Kahn mentioned the need to promote the TDR program. Ken suggested that would be one of the recommendations to Council.

Fred McCarty suggested the need to provide to the Commission with an update on regulations affecting forestland that have been adopted or are pending.

Dave Warren suggested accessing the hotel/motel tax – using tourist money to conserve forestland.

Louis Kahn suggested the need for a vision statement with specific goals.

Benj suggested a more in depth look into the possibility of marketing local forest products.

Gordon Bradley suggested the need to prioritize the items on the list.

Kathy commented that staff will need additional advice on managing County-owned forestland.

Louis suggested the need to address enhancing the quality of life in King County, as forestland is a large part of maintaining that quality.

Jean commented that the Commission had recommended prioritizing sites for acquisition. Benj responded that a prioritization had been done to some extent through the Conservation Futures application process.

Fred expressed concern that the County should be promoting responsible stewardship by private landowners rather than public acquisition of forestland. Ken clarified that acquisition can

and often should refer to the acquisition of conservation easements rather than outright purchase.

Kathy commented that Coop Extension is developing a youth forestry education program.

Benj commented that one of the attendees at the Mts-to-Sound trails meeting expressed a need for funding to acquire development rights on Weyerhaeuser's Snoqualmie Tree Farm. He had suggested that hunters and fisherman form a strong constituency that uses that land extensively.

Doug asked what the top six priorities on the list should be. Jean suggested that all funding mechanisms be top priorities. Dave Warren feels that a recommendation to Council is very important. He also suggested that a Forestry Workshop should be a priority. Steve Boyce suggested that the Commission needs to be informed of upcoming regulations and should be involved in providing feedback. Ken reiterated the need to educate the new Council members about the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 19 10:00–1:00 at the Kahn residence in North Bend (lunch included).